

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:590

ANSWERED ON:16.05.2007

INDO-US NUCLEAR FUEL DEAL

Chinta Mohan Dr. ;Suman Shri Ramji Lal

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Nuclear fuel deal between India and the US is in jeopardy as reported in the Business Standard dated April 20, 2007;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Representative of the U.S. Government has expressed dissatisfaction over the Indian views during the talks held on the issue;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

- (a) to (e) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 590 REGARDING "INDO-US NUCLEAR FUEL DEAL" FOR ANSWER ON 16.05.2007

- (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) - (e) An article in the US Financial Times dated April 19, 2007 (reproduced in the Business Standard article of April 20, 2007) quotes US Under Secretary for Political Affairs, Nicholas Burns as stating, "We are disappointed with the pace and seriousness of the civil nuclear negotiations with India. It is time to accelerate our efforts to achieve a final deal." The Washington Post of April 20, 2007 has also quoted Under Secretary Burns as saying, "There is a strong sense of frustration in Washington, in the Administration as well as in Congress, about the fact that the Indian side has progressed so slowly in this effort."

Subsequently, on May 1, 2007, after the 4th round of negotiations on the bilateral civil nuclear co-operation agreement between the Foreign Secretary and US Under Secretary of State, Nicholas Burns, in Washington, the State Department stated, "The discussions were positive and the US is encouraged by the extensive progress that was made on the issues."

The two sides are continuing discussions with a view to finalising the bilateral co-operation agreement in civil nuclear energy.